

Washington Digest

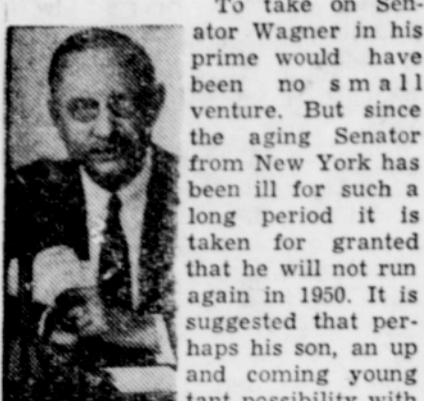
Politicians Settling Down To Practical Things Again

By BAUKHAGE
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WASHINGTON. — With the mighty fanfare of the Democrats on inauguration day a fading memory and even the brave words of the Republicans on Lincoln Day less than a whisper out of the past, the practical politicians on both sides of the aisles in the house and senate are hard at their practical politicking.

The sudden re-entrance of Governor Dewey on the political scene was something that took many of his fellow Republicans by surprise. Nevertheless, it would seem that many who don't like him because he lost last November and others who didn't like him enough to help him win last November, are willing to change their minds and really work for his election to the senate in 1950. They think he has a chance for the seat which Senator Wagner has held so long.

There is a tendency on the part of Democrats to shrug off this dis-



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man in his own right, might attempt to fill his fathers shoes.

That is always good political practice, for more than one candidate with a former hero's name, has been swept into office by voters who either didn't know their idol had departed or else thought a candidate by any other name couldn't smell as sweet. It was often declared that a number of old-timers had a vague feeling that FDR and TR were, if not the same, at least approximately the same person.

Meanwhile the Republicans are rapidly solidifying their forces for a concentrated battle over the repeal of the Taft-Hartley bill, and the way the atmosphere feels at this writing, Republican senators are offering the nearest thing to a filibuster that can be offered without actually being labelled one.

April is contract day for a good many unions and the race is to get the Taft-Hartley act off the books before then. If the Republicans can keep on amending and arguing past that date, it will be a distinct, if only temporary, victory for them.

It must have been quite a shock for the labor leaders to learn that the administration didn't think that labor won the election. Labor did a tremendous job for Truman, put in a lot of hard, fast cooperative work, dovetailing their programs with the efforts of the regular party workers.

But one Harry Truman did a lot of work, all by himself. When the A. F. of L. and CIO heads came down to Washington early in Jan-



INAUGURAL COLOR FADES
Back to practical politicking

uary laying their demands on the line they were somewhat annoyed to find a number of top Democrats polite, grateful and gracious, but also just a little coy.

Newsmen outside the office door when an A. F. of L. delegation was waiting for members of Senator Thomas' labor and public welfare committee, heard much desk-pounding and one voice was strong enough to penetrate the thick paneling:

"We went up and down the country ballyhooing for the repeal of the Taft-Hartley act. And that's what we want now."

But the practical politicians in the house and the senate knew they were facing the fight of their lives. They knew they could count on some Republican support, but only if they sent down a bill which had something in it beside straight repeal. That is why the administration ordered a "one-package" measure, one that contained certain positive provisions. The unions were willing to let the old Wagner act come back into force, but the administration knew that was the wrong approach since there was considerable popular sentiment against undoing all that had been done in the way of scotching strikes.

Shake-Up Hits Probe Committee

One of the interesting changes wrought by the election was the reorganization of the un-American activities committee. This strange child, born of a desire of one Democratic congressman to check Nazi and anti-Jewish activity in this country back in the days of Hitler had become a problem child for the administration.

The father of the idea (it was a New York congressman), saw his offspring kidnapped at birth. It was seized by Republican Hamilton Fish of New York and later by Rep. Martin Dies of Texas and brought up in quite a different manner from what was intended.

The Democrats were pretty embarrassed with the committee before Dies was through with it, and when he decided to withdraw from the Washington scene they tried to squelch it but failed. It had proved too good a headline-getter for its members. Then along came the Republicans in 1946 and grabbed it, making it one of the administration's number one headaches.

As soon as Democrats returned to power they saw to it that the committee, now an accepted institution, was cleaned up. By one twist and another, they managed to eliminate all of the old members but one, Representative Wood, who is chairman. Membership was limited to lawyers, which was logical enough, for its faults were those which no honest lawyer would condone, and it was reformed to recognize civil rights and to conform to some of the fundamental principles of justice and civil rights with which the original organization scorned to bother. Witnesses are now permitted to give their side of the case, be represented by counsel if they desire.

Nothing has been done to hamper its effectiveness, and it should be able to render a real service from now on. As Rep. John McSweeney (D., Ohio) one of the new members, said: "The spy hunt should be carried to a logical conclusion, but I will not permit innocent men and women to have their names and characters besmirched by unfounded and unsupported accusations."

The un-American activities committee, as it was run before it was cleaned up was an institution which simply could not continue to exist in America. It used methods which Americans will not tolerate, because if there is one thing an American demands, it is the right to be considered innocent until he is proved guilty. "Who steals my purse steals my trash. . . but he that filches my good name robs me of that which no riches him and makes me poor indeed."

Commies at Work In Ivid Halls

One of the jobs which the committee under J. Parnell Thomas, was preparing to do was to investigate communism in American colleges. That sent the universities and colleges into jitters for fear academic freedom would be throttled as other freedoms had been by the fanatical members of the old group. However, there is no reason at all why a judicial investigation of this particular subject shouldn't be undertaken.

Canada received a distinct shock recently from Dr. Watson Kirkconnell, president of Acadia university. He made an analysis of the report of the Labor Progressive Party university students conference at Toronto last fall which was published by the SATURDAY NIGHT, a weekly magazine published in Toronto.

The report is a 14,000 word document which presents the Communists' own views on their position, in Canadian universities. It reveals, according to Dr. Kirkconnell, that there are militant Communist "nuclei" on the campuses at McGill, Toronto, Winnipeg, Saskatoon, Edmonton, and Vancouver, all under rigid party discipline.

There are known to be a number of similar groups, doubtless working with the same party techniques, in this country. In some places they are considerably weaker than they used to be.



Yanks Well Equipped

CASEY STENGEL, the Professor, was caught in what looked to be deep thought. Naturally, he was thinking about the Yankees, since Casey and the Yankees will be all rolled up together this season.

"Our outfield," he remarked, "is well set. The best, DiMaggio, Henrich, Lindell, Keller and others. We have a chance for good pitching with Raschi, Porterfield, Reynolds, Shea, Page and a few more."

"Catching — uncertain. Infield — can't hit. We've got to find greater infield offense—more runs batted in. We were far in back of the Indians and Red Sox in that department last year. Far back, as far as the infields are compared."

This led to a comparison of the five leading teams. It figured up like this:

Cleveland Indians—Fine outfield; better infield; best pitching in baseball plus good catching. Stars such as Boudreau, Gordon, Doby, Mitchell, Bearden, Lemon and Feller. Plenty of power.

"The Indians shape up as a very tough club to handle," we said. "Is this about right, Professor?"

"That is entirely right," Casey said. "A very tough outfit to handle, offensively or defensively. The team to beat—if you can."

This took us to the Red Sox. High-class outfield headed by Williams and Dom DiMaggio. Even better infield with Goodman, Doerr, Stephens and Pesky. Ragged, uncertain pitching. Below Indians, Yankees and Athletics in this respect.

What about the Athletics? Fair outfield—fair infield. Both below Indians and Red Sox. Pitching high class. Might be better than last year — with catching, close to Yankees.

What is the Tigers' ranking? Red Rolfe has a good outfield, terrible infield and first-class pitching. He must improve the infield, just as the Yankees must. Kell is a fine ballplayer. Should be better than he was last year. Red Rolfe is due to become a smart, hustling leader and will get more life and fire into his squad which has been a dead outfit.

Professor Stengel looked over this report. "I guess it's about right," he said. "From what I've read and heard, we've got a job ahead in handling the Indians and Red Sox. Especially the Indians. They are strong everywhere."

"If Bob Feller should happen to have one of his big years—one of his 20-game years—it might be discouraging. It will be a tough league this summer. Can you imagine a world-series winner being strengthened—improved? And quite a bit?"

Help from Bill Dickey

"We've got plenty to do," Stengel continued. "We may need two or three infield improvements. This has been a good infield, defensively, but a poor one offensively."

"I'm counting a lot on Bill Dickey. Bill can help our catching a lot. He is a fine teacher—a very patient type. He can also help our pitching. Our pitching will need a lot of thought and work. Vic Raschi can be a 20-game winner. He has the makings of a star. So has young Bob Porterfield."

"Now about Shea. I know a lot about him. I had him in Portland. He did a great job for us—and a big job for New York in 1947. I think he'll do a big job again this season."

"Dickey will be a big help to all our pitchers. In his old days with the Yankees he was a marvel with young pitchers. He knew how to keep them calm and cool. Pitchers like Alton Donald who could win 10 or 12 straight."

"We'll have to get the best from every pitcher we've got. If we do, it will make a killing difference. I know they've got plenty."

Dickey should be able to bring quick aid to a valuable piece of baseball property known as Yogi Berra. Yogi is a natural hitter—better than .300, and long range to boot. He has a good arm but doesn't know how to throw to second. He can be made into a better outfielder than he is. The Yogi is a fine competitor, more than willing to learn.

Stengel has another badly-underestimated ballplayer in Johnny Lindell. He is better than a .300 hitter who can also hit the big one—the long one. He is a good outfielder with a good arm. He can play first. And he could be a useful pitcher, which he once was.

Lindell is one of the best all-around athletes in the game. He is also one of the best all-around ballplayers—a ballplayer the Yankees, for some reason, have never given his full due.



Farm Outlook Bright For Coming 5 Years

U. S. Economists Show Optimism in Forecasts

In spite of some recent declines in farm prices, agricultural economists of the U. S. department of agriculture took an optimistic point of view at their recent outlook conference in Washington, D. C. In the past, these economists have confined their estimates of the outlook to the coming 12 months. This time they tried to look five years ahead. And, they decided that things look fairly good for the farmer for that long.

Of course, they made two basic assumptions that some people still are a little doubtful about—that a stable peace will be established and that there will be no serious de-



America's economic boom continues as buying power outpaces prices.

pression. If time should prove them wrong about one of the two, the effect may be drastic. And they hasten to point out that these are assumptions, not predictions.

They then go on to point out that the population will increase between one and two million persons a year until 1952; that industrial output per worker will increase, and that yields per acre and per livestock unit probably also will increase.

High incomes for industrial workers will mean a steady market for foodstuffs and clothing. High yield per worker might mean more stable prices for industrial goods. Higher yields per acre and per animal unit will mean more economical production for the farmer.

All in all, this shapes up to just about the kind of five-year period that the farmers themselves would like to enjoy. High production at fair prices means a break for producers and consumers — a square deal for both.

Battle Against Aftosa



In a drive to stamp out aftosa (foot and mouth disease) from Mexico in two years, a joint U. S.-Mexico commission has undertaken the job of vaccinating from eight to 10 million cattle in the affected area by the end of 1949.

Trained teams go ahead of the nine teams of vaccinators to preach the benefits of vaccination and convince the sometimes ignorant cattle owners that vaccination is the only alternative to disaster.

By the end of 1949 the program will have cost approximately 50 million dollars. It includes five points: constant inspection, disinfection, eradication, vaccination and quarantine.

The vaccination process itself is simple. A needle of the vaccine is shot into the animal and that's all there is to it. It will take from eight to 10 million shots to complete the job. The vaccine protects for six months.

Expert Urges Milk Cows Be Taught 'Good Habits'

Training your cows in good habits is most important to all dairymen, according to a leading dairy specialist. He lists the following recommendations for more milk, greater profits and reduced mastitis:

Keep cows undisturbed; stimulate milk letdown one minute before milking begins; operate milking machine according to manufacturer's directions.



THOSE INVENTIVE RUSSIANS

Pravda claims Russia flew an airplane 21 years before the Wright brothers' Kitty Hawk flight. . . . Prof. V. Danilevsky tells the Soviet Academy of Science that the Russians invented the telephone, the electric light, the radio, the ship's propeller and jet propulsion. That leaves us with nothing but the zipper and the windshield wiper.

We took these claims up with Dr. Elmer Twitchell and he says they are correct. "It was Russia that gave the world the submarine, the telegraph instrument, the moving picture camera, gunpowder, the talking machine, the safety razor, the electric ice-box and the first radio commercial," he declared. "I thought everybody knew!"

"We owe the automobile to Moscow, too," Elmer went on. "Henry Ford was really a Russian named Ivan Flivvercoffski. He got the idea of a low-cost car from Igor Model-teevich. Thomas Edison went to Russia as a spy and stole the secret of the electric light, the phonograph and the movie camera from a fur trader named Menlo Parkovich. Tom got into a meeting of engineers where no Russian was eligible unless he had perfected an incandescent bulb and two types of movie cameras. He escaped discovery due to the fact he wore a red beard and would yield the floor to nobody."

"At that time every Volga boatman was experimenting with a talking machine. Edison stole the idea of the spaniel in the trademark called 'His Master's Voice.' It was really a Russian wolfhound."

Russia not only invented the telegraph but the first singing telegram was sent by one Boris Kolonovopopoff of the Imperial Russian Opera. What we call the Morse code is Russian. The dots come from the old, old Russia and the dashes from the old, old, old Russia.

"As for the radio, Lenin's grandfather had his own network, and one of the early radio radio features was a fellow called Arthuromov God-freydovitch. They also had a team called Amosoff and Andy-ozoff. And Ella Fitzgerald says the Russians had the first jack-pot program. It was called 'Stop the Mujik'."

Dr. Twitchell went on to say that his father remembered the time the Russians invented and flew the first airplane. "It was invented by one of the early Marxists and was propelled by explosives. It had no wings. Marxists hated wings because of the suggestion of religion. They just used a tail, a forked one," he said.

"My old man said the Russians couldn't get their first Russian plane off the ground at first, but that a couple of pre-Soviet writers did it with an editorial. The plane stayed up only a few minutes. It could have stayed up longer except that the inventor and operator wanted to get down and denounce somebody," Elmer concluded.

WASHINGTON DIAGNOSIS

The country is in splendid shape
Good is the Union's state;
Our system is a booming one—
So let us operate!

No other system touches ours
It's busy, strong and fit —
Hence it is quite apparent that
There's something wrong
with it.

There was terrific irony in the last stage appearance of Willie Howard. It was only recently, in the tryout of a new musical. His big sketch was on the topic of hospital routines and he made his entrance on an operating table! No one dreamed that he was to die in one very soon. We saw the first performance of the new show, which was pretty terrible at that time, and were puzzled by Willie's lack of form. There was a marked difference in his appearance, too, and for the first time in our experience he wasn't funny. Little did anybody in the audience sense that Death was teaming up with him this time, a new and strange partner after long years of merry going.

The Pilgrims were a backward lot,
They seemed to slave and drudge it;
They fought the Indians without a billion dollar budget.

The early settlers were quite quaint —
When Redmen came full swing,
They didn't cry for guarantees
Against that sort of thing.

The Tories are calling the President Harry Delano Trusvelt

ASK ME ANOTHER?

A General Quiz

The Questions

1. How "near" is the nearest star?
2. According to Biblical weights and measures, how much was a farthing worth in American money?
3. What man was both father and son of a President of the United States?
4. What is a chambrel?
5. Which state was the 48th admitted to the Union?

The Answers

1. 25,000,000,000 miles away (the constellation Centaurus).
2. Approximately three cents.
3. John Scott Harrison, father of Benjamin and son of William Henry Harrison.
4. A joint in a horse's leg.
5. Arizona, admitted February 14, 1912.

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relieve coughs—aching muscles
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Are you going through the functional "middle age" period peculiar to women (35 to 52 yrs.)? Does this make you suffer from hot flashes, feel so nervous, highstrung, tired? Then do try Lydia E. Pinkham's Vegetable Compound to relieve such symptoms. Pinkham's Compound also has what Doctors call a stomachic tonic effect!
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Watch Your Kidneys!
Help Them Cleanse the Blood of Harmful Body Waste
Your kidneys are constantly filtering waste matter from the blood stream. But kidneys sometimes lag in their work—do not act as Nature intended—fail to remove impurities that, if retained, may poison the system and upset the whole body machinery.
Symptoms may be nagging backache, persistent headache, attacks of dizziness, getting up nights, swelling, puffiness under the eyes—a feeling of nervous anxiety and loss of pep and strength.
Other signs of kidney or bladder disorder are sometimes burning, scanty or too frequent urination.
There should be no doubt that prompt treatment is wiser than neglect. Use Doan's Pills. Doan's have been winning new friends for more than forty years. They have a nation-wide reputation. Are recommended by grateful people the country over. Ask your neighbor!
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